AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended): Method for the continuous manufacture of wood material boards having a textured surface on at least one side, comprising:

forming a mat of a wood or lignocellulose-containing material, treated with a binding agent, onto a continuously moving conveyor belt;

introducing the mat between steel belts each circulating around one of an upper and lower frame part of a continuously operating press; and

after the step of introducing the mat, curing the mat in the continuously operating press to form one of a strand of boards and an endless wood material board by applying pressure and heat to the mat,

wherein the continuously operating press comprises at least one endless metal mesh belt configured to circulate with a corresponding one of said steel belts and with the mat,

wherein the metal mesh belt comprises a material having a thermal conductivity ~~substantially~~ considerably higher than that of the corresponding steel belt and having a thermal expansion coefficient approximately equal to that of the corresponding steel belt,

wherein the metal mesh belt and the corresponding steel belt are configured to pass through an insulating tunnel, in a return run, to reduce heat loss by thermal radiation,

wherein the metal mesh belt is configured to pass through a heating tunnel, which is separated from the corresponding steel belt,

wherein the heating tunnel is configured to heat the metal mesh belt to a temperature that is higher than a temperature of the corresponding steel belt by at least 40°C, and

wherein curing the mat comprises applying a specific pressure to the mat of at least 0.3 N/mm^2 during a first at least 80% of a pressing time.

2. (original): Method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of measuring a density profile of the formed one of the strand of boards and the endless wood material board, after the step of curing the mat, wherein the heating tunnel is configured to heat the metal mesh belt to a temperature profile that directly depends on said density profile.

3. (original): Method according to claim 1, further comprising the step adjusting a symmetrical or asymmetrical raw density profile in the formed one of the strand of boards and the endless wood material board, by adjusting a heat input into the side of the mat which is to be textured.

4. (original): Method according to claim 1, wherein the heating tunnel is configured to heat the metal mesh belt to a temperature that is higher than said temperature of the corresponding steel belt by at least 80°C.

5. (original): Method according to claim 1, wherein said step of introducing the mat comprises introducing the mat with a moisture content of less than or equal to approximately 9 weight-percent.

6. (original): Method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of spraying one or both face strata of the mat with water.

7. (original): Method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of preheating one or both face strata of the mat with steam.

8. (withdrawn): A continuously operating press for the continuous manufacture of wood material boards having a textured surface on at least one side, comprising:

an upper frame part and a lower frame part;

two endless steel belts configured to draw a mat of material through the continuously operating press and to transfer press pressure, each steel belt associated with one of the upper frame part and the lower frame part;

an endless metal mesh belt associated with a corresponding one of said steel belts;

an insulating tunnel associated with said metal mesh belt and said corresponding steel belt; and

a heating tunnel associated with said metal mesh belt and separated from said corresponding steel belt,

wherein the metal mesh belt comprises a material having a thermal conductivity substantially higher than that of the corresponding steel belt and having a thermal expansion coefficient approximately equal to that of the corresponding steel belt,

wherein the metal mesh belt and the corresponding steel belt are configured to pass through the insulating tunnel, in a return run, to reduce heat loss by thermal radiation,

wherein the metal mesh belt is configured to pass through the heating tunnel, and

wherein the heating tunnel is configured to heat the metal mesh belt to a temperature that is higher than a temperature of said corresponding steel belt by at least 40°C.

9. (withdrawn): The continuously operating press as in claim 8, wherein the continuously operating press is configured to apply a specific pressure to the mat of at least 0.3 N/mm^2 during a first at least 80% of a pressing time.

10. (withdrawn): Apparatus for the continuous manufacture of wood material boards having a textured surface on at least one side, comprising:

a spreading station configured to spread an unoriented or oriented mixture of binding agent and one of chips and shavings to form a mat of material;

a continuously operating press; and

a conveyor belt configured to continuously move under the spreading station and configured to transfer the mat of material to the continuously operating press,

wherein the continuously operating press comprises:

an upper frame part and a lower frame part;

a heatable and coolable press platen mounted on each of the upper frame part and the lower frame part;

two endless steel belts configured to draw the mat of material through the continuously operating press and to transfer press pressure, each steel belt associated with one of the upper frame part and the lower frame part;

driving and idler drums configured to support and carry said steel belts;

an endless metal mesh belt associated with a corresponding one of said steel belts;

an insulating tunnel associated with said metal mesh belt and said corresponding steel belt; and

a heating tunnel associated with said metal mesh belt and separated from said corresponding steel belt,

wherein the metal mesh belt comprises a material having a thermal conductivity substantially higher than that of the corresponding steel belt and having a thermal expansion coefficient approximately equal to that of the corresponding steel belt,

wherein the metal mesh belt and the corresponding steel belt are configured to pass through the insulating tunnel, in a return run, to reduce heat loss by thermal radiation,

wherein the metal mesh belt is configured to pass through the heating tunnel,

wherein the heating tunnel is configured to heat the metal mesh belt to a temperature that is higher than a temperature of said corresponding steel belt by at least 40°C, and

wherein the continuously operating press is configured to apply a specific pressure to the mat of at least 0.3 N/mm^2 during a first at least 80% of a pressing time.

11. (withdrawn): Apparatus according to claim 10, wherein the heating tunnel is configured to heat the metal mesh belt to a temperature that is higher than said temperature of the corresponding steel belt by at least 80°C.

12. (withdrawn): Apparatus according to claim 10, wherein the heating tunnel comprises exactly one or two heating plates.

13. (withdrawn): Apparatus according to claim 10, wherein the heating tunnel comprises exactly one heating roll.

14. (withdrawn): Apparatus according to claim 10, wherein the metal mesh belt comprises a warp and filling, and wherein the warp and filling each consists essentially of cast steel.

15. (withdrawn): Apparatus according to claim 10, wherein the metal mesh belt comprises a warp and filling, and wherein the warp consists essentially of stainless steel and the filling consists essentially of cast steel.

16. (withdrawn): Apparatus according to claim 10, further comprising a cleaning brush with a blower tube and a vacuum cleaner, configured to continuously clean the metal mesh belt.